Loan from Asian Development Bank

*279. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board failed to send its delegation to negotiate loan for expansion of Railway line, purchase of locomotives etc. with Asian Development Bank; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that previous loan amounting to 190 million doller sanctioned by ADB remains unutilised till this day, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this is likely to effect adversely to Railways' programme to produce 30,000 wagons this year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Asian Development Bank had suggested that negotiation of loan for the Second Railway Project be held from the 27th to 30th August, 1991. As these dates were not suitable, it was suggested that new dates be proposed. The negotiations are now expected to be held shortly.

(b) Till the end of August, 1991, of the total amount of US $ 190 million claims for reimbursement for US $ 2.7 million have been sent to the Bank, and action is in progress to step up the utilisation.

(c) Current year's programme envisages manufacture of 25,120 wagons, which is independent of this loan.

Study of water resources in Rajasthan

*280. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct any study and locate water resources in Rajasthan; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware of a French proposal which was received long back about their efforts in making such study alongwith finalcial assistance to this respect; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under Indo-French Collaboration a Pilot Project for Ground Water Management and salinity in TIBI Sector of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (Rajtsthan), has been prepared. The French assistance proposed is French Franc 4.1 million. The Project has already been approved by the concerned technical organisation of the Ministry.

Volcanic flames in the Islands of Andaman

1694. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the barren island which is volcanic in the Islands of Andamans continues to spit fire for the last three months;

(b) whether Government hape conducted tny study about the volcanic flames causing problems in the barren island; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for finding out the reasons of volcano in that island and also to save the Island from disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Geological Survey of India which is study the volcanic eruption is of the view that the present volcanic eruption of Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Island is due to existence of volcanic belts with deep seated tectonic causes. Volcanic activity is a natural phenomenan and the outflow of volcanic lava and ash cannot be checked. The present eruption is on a low key. Since there is no human habitation upto a distance of 70 kilometers from the volcano, there is no